

Guide Dogs.

Puppy Coat Policy

Puppy coats are often a source of pride for our Puppy Raisers who love seeing their pup's wearing their smart orange vests. It is also an important way to acknowledge our very generous sponsors.

Your pup can receive a coat when they meet the following criteria;

- Pup is 5 months or older.
- Pup has successfully completed all Foundation Classes.
- Puppy Raisers have attended Education Sessions 1 and 2 (within the last 3 years).
- Completed a Puppy Coat Assessment

When to wear the coat:

- When the pup is in public e.g., on a walk or at a training session.
- When the pup is on leash and being supervised.
- When the pup is in a calm emotional state i.e., the 'Green Zone'.

When not to wear the coat:

- If the temperature exceeds 26 degrees.
- If the pup is showing signs of discomfort or sensitivity, stalling (stops walking with the coat on), chewing/scratching at the coat, excessively panting if it's not hot, or avoids 'getting dressed' into the coat.
- If the pup is seeking Veterinary treatment.
- Whilst travelling in the car.
- When the pup is toileting.
- During play with other dogs.
- When the pup is off leash or unsupervised.
- If the coat has not been issued to your pup. Please do not seek or accept coats from other Puppy Raisers.

Wearing the coat:

- Please practice putting the coat on following the 'Get Dressed' section of STEP. This can be found on Puppy Central under Puppy Training Manual > Dog Skills > Get Dressed.
- Ensure the coat fits correctly. A correctly fitted coat should not interfere with your pup's movement. As a guide, you should be able to fit two fingers between the girth or chest strap and the pup's body. Your Puppy Development Advisor will assist you with the correct fit when the coat is issued.
- Please speak with your Puppy Development Advisor should you need to size up to a larger sized coat.
- If for any reason you or your Puppy Development Advisor is concerned about your pup's behaviour or your pup is developing an aversion to the Puppy Coat, wearing of the coat may be suspended until the concern is resolved. You may be provided with a bandana should this occur.

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Ownership:

- All coats remain the property of Guide Dogs NSW/ACT.
- All coats must be returned to Guide Dogs NSW/ACT on request.
- Please return coats that your pup has outgrown so that a correctly fitted one can be supplied.
- All coats need to be returned to your Puppy Development Advisor at your last visit prior to Guide Dog Assessment.
- Please launder the coat before their return.
- Puppy Coats should not be modified in any way. This includes, but is not restricted to removing the lining, extending the chest or girth straps, or adding names or patches.
- Please be careful with your coats. Lost or damaged coats may not be able to be replaced.
- Please ensure coats are always kept clean and presentable. They should be washed in cold water with a mild detergent that will not irritate your pups' skin and be dried in the shade to prevent fading.
- Please store coats in the shade to prevent fading and away from your pups reach to prevent damage.

Access Rights:

- In New South Wales, Guide Dog pups in training do **not** have public access rights. Any public access extended to Guide Dogs for training purposes is provided in kind and is not a right.
- Please note that wearing the Puppy Coat does **not** change this status. Permission to enter any public spaces must be granted by the owner. Guide Dog pups have no legal rights to enter public spaces. Doing so without permission may result in you being asked to leave or being fined.

Being awarded a Puppy Coat is a great achievement and something you and your pup should be very proud of.

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Puppy Coat Assessment

Assessment Details			
Pup's Name		Date	
Puppy Raiser		Pup's DOB	
PDA		Location	

Assessment Outcome			
Coat Issued	Yes / No	Size	Medium / Large
Coat ID Number		Fitted	Yes / No

Assessment Criteria	
Assessment Criteria	Assessment Response
Pup is 6 months +	Yes / No
Pup has completed Foundation Classes	Yes / No
Puppy Raiser has attended Education Session #1 & #2 (in the last 3 years)	Yes / No

Assessment Session	
Assessment Criteria	Assessment Response
Body Condition Score	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9
Appropriately loads and unloads from a vehicle	Satisfactory / Working Towards
Appropriately greets people (3 separate greeters)	Satisfactory / Working Towards
Walks nicely on leash (age-appropriate response)	Satisfactory / Working Towards
Prompt Name Response	Satisfactory / Working Towards
Can maintain a Sit (30sec)	Satisfactory / Working Towards
Can maintain a Drop (30sec)	Satisfactory / Working Towards
Promptly Heels	Satisfactory / Working Towards
Can Get Dressed and is comfortable in all equipment	Satisfactory / Working Towards
Will Settle when stationary (under 3 mins)	Satisfactory / Working Towards
Vocalises	Satisfactory / Working Towards Bark / Whimper / Whine / Other
On leash dog pass (age-appropriate response)	Satisfactory / Working Towards
Toileting (age-appropriate)	Satisfactory / Working Towards
Presence of apparent marking behaviour	Satisfactory / Working Towards
Pup is responsive to Handler	Satisfactory / Working Towards
Puppy Raiser recognises the pups needs	Satisfactory / Working Towards
Puppy Raiser responds in a way that helps the pup	Satisfactory / Working Towards